

may hereby be added to nomenclature ; but this independent course is the only one to be pursued under existing circumstances."—*Extract of a Letter from Dr. T. W. Harris of Harvard University, to Mr. E. Doubleday.*

OBITUARY.

On the 23rd of November, at the Cavalry Barracks, Leeds, at the early age of 25, Daniel Cooper, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon to the 17th Lancers, (which regiment he had only joined about two months,) of a sudden attack of *phlebitis* (inflammation of the veins). Although death is the heir-loom of mortality, and the terminus of all earthly beings, yet such is the frailty and short-sightedness of our nature, that we are apt to view its effects in some cases with more commiseration than in others, and conclude that the period of bereavement is most distant, when it is within a few short hours of arriving. We see individuals in mature life, and aged labourers in the field of science, removed from amongst us with a sort of feeling that such is the ordinary course of nature ; but when those in the spring-time of their existence, whose fondest hopes and anxious expectations appear just upon the point of being realized,—whose early labours and projected investigations to ensure honourable distinctions at future periods are so suddenly blighted and snatched away,—we feel utterly unable to comprehend the inscrutable dispensations of Providence, though so constantly reminded of the mutability of everything human, and are left to console ourselves with the cherished hope that the labours of the wise and good will not be in vain, nor their example without influence ; but as they depart hence others of like mind will step into their place, and the cause of science and knowledge continue to advance, notwithstanding the successive removals of its ardent and lamented supporters. The decease of our contributor and friend Mr. Cooper forcibly illustrates these observations : from his earliest years he had been zealously devoted to scientific investigations, but cultivated more especially botany and conchology ; soon after the formation of the Microscopical Society of London, he originated and conducted the Microscopic Journal, in which he was latterly joined by Mr. Busk, of the Hospital Ship, Dreadnought. Mr. Cooper was a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, of the Microscopical and Botanical Societies of London, and Associate of the Linnæan Society ; formerly Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum ; Lecturer on Botany at the Theatre of Anatomy and Medicine, Webb Street, Borough ; Curator of the Botanical Society ; author of the 'Flora Metropolitana,' &c. His amiable disposition, gentlemanly deportment, and readiness to afford assistance to any one engaged in practical investigations, endeared him to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and most to those who knew him best. He attended a review on the 18th, was a corpse on the 23rd, and was interred with military honours on the 28th inst.